FOUNDED BY ALLAN PINKERTON.
WM. A. PINKERTON, Gen'l Supt. Western Division. CHICAGO.
ROBT. A. PINKERTON, Gen'l Supt. Eastern Div. NEW YORK.
1850
Pinkerton's National Detective Agency
"WE NEVER SLEEP."
OFFICES
CHICAGO, 191 & 198 FIFTH AVE., WM. A. PINKERTON, SUPT.
DENVER, 1 & 2 OPERA HOUSE BLOCK, JAS. McPARLAND, SUPT.
PHILADELPHIA, 45 SOUTH THIRD ST., R. J. LINDEN, SUPT.
NEW YORK, 66 EXCHANGE PLACE, GEO. D. BANGS, SUPT.
BOSTON, 42 & 44 COURT ST., JOHN CORNISH, SUPT.
ATTORNEYS FOR THE AGENCY: CLARENCE A. SEWARD, NEW YORK. LEWIS C. CASSIDY, PHILADELPHIA. D. W. MUNN, CHICAGO.
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ST. PAUL, UNION BLOCK. W. J. LOADER, SUPT.
KANSAS CITY, 105 & 107 WEST SIXTH ST., C. H. EPPELSHEIMER, SUPT.

Chicago, August 24, 1888.

H. B. Stone, Esq.,

Genl. Man. C.B.& Q. R.R.,

City.

Dear Sir:-

Following you will please find reports of Operative "J.A.K."

Wednesday, August 22, 1888.

To-day, in Chicago,

At 2 P.M. Opt. was called into Supt. "D.R's" room and instructed to prepare to go to Sugar Grove and Big Rock with Opt. "A.C.J." They left Chicago at 4.45 P.M. and arrived at Big Rock at about 7 P.M. Opt. left Opt. "A.C.J." at the station with the agent and went and got his supper; after this he saw Opt. "A.C.J." and they took the train for Sugar Grove, arriving there at about 9.30 P.M.; while on the train Opt. met Mr. Card. When they reached Sugar Grove, Opt. went to the hotel, leaving Mr. Card and Opt. "A.C.J." at the depot. After a short time, three men came into the hotel and the hotel keeper said to Opt. that there must be something up as one of the men was an engineer and the other two (Card and Opt. "A.C.J.") were railroad men . Then he went on to say that the man who stops at his place is up to some game or another on the C.B.& Q. people, for the purpose of getting money; after they (Card, Opt. "A.C.J." and McLean) came down out of the room, Opt. accompanied Opt. "A.C.J." and McLean up the track, where McLean had said

that some one was going to wreck the midnight mail train; they looked over the cornfield and remained in the vicinity from 11.30 P.M. until 2 A.M. While there two freight trains passed and the mail train came at about 1.30 A.M. They returned to Sugar Grove at about 2.15 A.M., went to the hotel and retired.

Thursday, August 25, 1888.

To-day, in Sugar Grove,

Opt. and Opt. "A.C.J." remained about a while after breakfast and then left. Opt. came to Chicago and reported at the Agency and Opt. "A.C.J." stopped in Aurora to see the Supt. of that Division and said that he might go back to Sugar Grove to go out with McLean and look over the place where McLean saw the men in the corn field, again.

Yours respectfully,

Pinkerton's Nat. Det. Agency,

by Wm. A. Pinkerton,

Genl. Supt. Western Division.

R.C.

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Chicago, August 24, 1888.

H. B. Stone, Esq.,

Genl. Man. C.B.& Q. R.R.,

City.

Dear Sir:-

Following you will please find report of Operative "A.C.J."

Thursday, August 23, 1888.

To-day, in Sugar Grove,

Opt. had a talk with Mr. Roberts, the station agent, in regard to McLean; Mr. Roberts says that McLean has been here about six weeks; for the greater part of that time he staid at the hotel, occasionally doing odd jobs for the farmers in the vicinity. McLean has told Roberts that he is an engineer and is waiting to get a job that has been promised him by you; he also said that he has had several dreams about things that were going to happen and the dreams had always come true.

Roberts considers McLean a "crank" and liar and that he is not responsible for what he says.

The proprietor of the hotel states that McLean has staid in the hotel off and on for six or seven weeks; he paid his board all right and to all appearance was quiet and minded his business; he was acquainted with nearly all the engine men running through Sugar Grove and frequently boarded the engines when a train came through Sugar Grove and talked with the engineer. The proprietor is of the opinion that McLean is not of quite sound mind.

At 9.05 A.M. Opt. and Opt.'J.A.K.'left Sugar Grove for Aurora; on arrival there Opt. stopped and Opt.'J A.K.' went on to Chicago. Opt. called at Mr.Rhodes' office to ascertain whether he knew anything of McLean but did not find him.

Having decided to examine the locality where McLean claims to have seen the tramps further,Opt.returned to Big Rock and from thee went to the corn field,which he went over thoroughly in all directions without finding the least sign of anything having been there; he also examined the track between Sugar Grove and Big Rock and everything was apparently all right.

Opt. also inquired at the various farm houses in the neighborhood,but every one said that no stranger or tramp had been seen or heard of in that vicinity for some time.

In making the statements that he has,McLean has contradicted himself frequently and while making his statement to Opt. he hesitated frequently before answering questions; when Opt. suggested that he might perhaps have dreamed it all about hearing and seeing the tramps, he admitted in a vague kind of way that such might have been the case.

Messrs. Card,Roberts and Barlow are all of the opinion that McLean's story is a lie from beginning to end and his object in telling the story has been to further some object of his own; probably to secure work from the C.B.& Q. Considering the circumstances,Opt. decided not to do anything further until he had seen Asst.Supt.'J.C.McC.'

Opt. watched on the track between Sugar Grove and Big Rock until all the midnight trains had passed and then retired.

Friday,August 24,1888.

To-day,in Sugar Grove,

Opt. left at 8 A.M. and went directly to Chicago, arriving there at 9.30 A.M. He then reported to Asst.Supt."J.C.McG." at the Agency.

Yours respectfully,

Pinkerton's Nat.Det.Agency,

by Wm. A. Pinkerton

Genl.Supt.Western Division.

R.C.

FOUNDED BY ALLAN PINKERTON.
WM. A. PINKERTON, Gen'l Supt. Western Division. CHICAGO.
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Chicago, August 24, 1888.

H. B. Stone, Esq.,

Genl. Man. C. B. & Q. R. R.,

City.

Sugar Grove

Dear Sir:-

Following you will please find report of Operative "A.C.J."

Wednesday, August 22, 1888.

To-day, in Chicago,

Opt. received instructions from Asst. Supt. "J.C.McG." to go to Sugar Grove, a small station on the Chicago & Iowa R'y and there to make an investigation of the supposed plot to wreck the west bound passenger train, which passes through Sugar Grove about 12.30 A.M. Opt. was handed a telegram received by you, from S.A.McLean, of Big Rock, another station on the C. & I. R'y, six miles west of Sugar grove.

This message stated that there was a plot on foot to damage the midnight train on the C. & I. and if you would send a detective to Sugar grove he (McLean) would tell about the matter and render further assistance. Opt. was instructed to first go to Big Rock and interview the agent there with reference to McLean. then to go to Sugar Grove ; Opt. "J.A.K." was detailed to accompany him, and at 4.50 P.M. they left Chicago for Big Rock, where they arrived at 7 P.M.

Opt. introduced himself to Mr. Barlow, the agent there and asked him to give all the information that he could in reference to McLean.

Barlow said that he knew nothing about McLean; that he had never seen him until this morning about 9.30, when he came to the depot and inquired of Barlow whether he had seen any strange men get on or off any train this morning; Barlow replied that he had not and then McLean said that he would send a message over the wires to you at Chicago; McLean wrote out the message and handed it to Barlow, who asked for payment; McLean said that that would be all right, that you knew him and that there would be no trouble about the payment. McLean then left and Barlow sent the message to you, sending a duplicate to the Division Supt. (H.D.Jordan) at Rochelle. Barlow was afterward informed that the train-master (C.W.Card) would go to Sugar Grove this evening to interview McLean.

On the arrival of the 9 P.M. train Opt. was introduced to Mr.Card by Barlow and went with him to Sugar Grove; on the arrival of the train there, they were met by the agent (Roberts) and McLean.

They went to a hotel and to a room up stairs, and McLean made the following statement.

"Last evening about 9 o'clock, I saw two tramps get off a freight train (from the West) near here, and walk up the line; I thought nothing of it at the time, but during the night, I dreamed that a train had been wrecked near here and this morning when I got up the thought came into my head that perhaps the tramps whom I saw get off the train might make an attempt to wreck the night train. So I took a walk along the track for about two miles, until I reached a wagon road, where I turned to the left and walked along the road for some distance, until I came to an orchard, where there were lots of apples. I got over the fence and picked up some apples from the ground, when I heard voices in a cornfield adjoining the orchard. I concealed myself in the edge of

the field and heard a conversation between two men; one of them said to the other "Shall we try it to-night,or give up altogether and get out of this?" the other made no reply and the man called out in a louder tone, "Are you asleep,Bob? wake up." the other man then spoke and inquired what was wanted; No.1 (the one who first spoke) then repeated his inquiry as to whether they should try the job to-night or leave the neighborhood; No.2 said that he did not care to lie around in the corn field allday without anything to eat; No.1 then said that there were lots of apples to be got and came out into the orchard and picked up a lot of apples and then returned to his companion. After a time,No.1 again spoke,saying, "If we can displace the rail and the train runs off,we can make a good deal out of it; we can be around and they will think that we are some of the passengers. No.2 then inquired what would be the best way of wrecking the train and No.1 said, "We can get a wrench or a screw key from the threshing machine over there at the farm house and it will be an easy matter to unscrew a couple of fish plates."

McLean then made his way out of the field and went directly to Big Rock,where he sent the dispatch to you. McLean says that the man who came into the orchard appeared about 20 years old,smooth face and dressed in dark clothes; his pants had a large patch on one knee. This man McLean recognized as one of the tramps whom he saw get off the freight train last evening; the other tramp had whiskers all around his face.

McLean told his story in a rambling and hesitating way and, in answer to the inquiry as to what induced him to make for the exact locality where the men were concealed,which is some three miles from Sugar Grove, he said that he did not know,only it seemed to him that

some irresisable power seemed to lead him in that direction. In reply to other questions he gave very unsatisfactory replies. He stated that he was a Boston man; that he had a wife and family in Boston; that he was a railroad engineer; was formerly employed on the Boston & Maine R.R. and also on the Inter-Colonial R.R. and that in March last he was hired by the agent of the C.B.& Q. R.R. to come west to work. He came directly to Chicago and was afterwards given work on the B.& M. R.R. in Nebraska. After working a short time in Nebraska, he was laid off, on account of there being no work for his engine and he then went to Chicago and worked in the yards at 16th St. and Western Av. for a while.

He further said that on several occasions he had heard the strikers talking and had given you valuable information on more than one occasion. He learned all about the dynamite scheme to blow up the R.R. bridge over the Missouri River and informed you. He claims that you have written to him several times and to prove this statement he showed a note, signed "H.B.Stone" and addressed to himself at Sugar Grove; this note directed him to come to Chicago and see you, also gave directions how to obtain a pass at Aurora for transportation to Chicago; the date of this is "July 14, 1888."

After leaving Chicago, McLean came to Sugar Grove, where he has been about six weeks; during that time he has done odd jobs for farmers and part of the time he boards at the hotel.

After consulting with Mr.Card, Opt. decided to have McLean accompany him and point out where he claims to have seen the men this morning and at the same time Mr.Card made arrangements to have the line guarded between Sugar Grove and Big Rock until morning.

Mr. Card, however, said that he thought McLean was a "crank"

and that his story had been manufactured merely to serve some purpose of his own.

At about 11 P.M., McLean, Opt. and Opt. "J.A.K." left Sugar Grove and went west along the track for about two miles; then they followed the wagon road south for abut a mile; McLean pointed out a corn field as the place where he heard and saw the men.

Opt. "J.A.K." and Opt. examined the field and as it was moonlight, they could see quite clearly, but they failed to find anything that would indicate that any person had been there recently. McLean then said that he might possible have been mistaken as to the field. Opts. afterwards searched the neighboring fields without finding any trace of the men and, after having examined the track for some three and a half miles below Sugar Grove, they returned to the starting point and retired at about 3 A.M.

Yours respectfully,

Pinkerton's Nat.Det.Agency,

by Jno. C. Pinkerton,

Genl.Supt.Western Division.

R.C.